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Julie Elizabeth Brinkman

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The Production of *Sticky Notes and Bible Quotes: Godly Answers for Sticky Situations*

A Children's Musical as directed by Julie Brinkman

An Honors College Project Thesis

Presented to

The Department of Music

Abilene Christian University

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for

Honors Scholar

by

Julie Elizabeth Brinkman

December 2015

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Julie Elizabeth Brinkman

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This Project Thesis, directed and approved by the candidate's committee,  
has been accepted by the Honors College of Abilene Christian University  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the distinction

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis reflects upon a director's experience while directing her first production:

*Sticky Notes and Bible Quotes: Godly Answers for Sticky Situations* by Dennis and Nan

Allen. This children's musical was produced in cooperation with Wylie United Methodist

Church of Abilene, TX. Over forty children, with the help of ten adult volunteers, shared

the importance of memorizing scripture and looking to God's Word in times of trouble

through song, skits, and the recitation of scripture. While reflecting upon the production

process after each rehearsal, the director makes connections between her experiences as

director, the content of her music education undergraduate courses, and her Christian

faith. In addition to weekly reflections, this thesis includes e-mail correspondence

between the director and other production staff as well as rehearsal schedules and cast

lists. Performance flyers and programs are also provided along with additional documents

relevant to the production process. A complete recording of the performance is also

available for viewing.

Keywords: sticky notes and bible quotes, production, reflection

## Table of Contents

Title Page.....	1
Copyright Notice .....	2
Signature Page.....	3
Abstract .....	4
Table of Contents .....	5
Rehearsal Journal .....	6
Appendix A: Email Correspondence.....	26
Appendix B: Suggested Musicals .....	37
Appendix C: Original Rehearsal Schedule.....	38
Appendix D: Final Rehearsal Schedule .....	40
Appendix E: Parent Letter/Registration .....	42
Appendix F: Song List/Themes.....	43
Appendix G: “Forgiven, Forgotten ” Sketch .....	45
Appendix H: Bible Verse Assignments .....	46
Appendix I: Skits Casting .....	47
Appendix J: Bible Verses.....	49
Appendix K: Prop List .....	53
Appendix L: Extra Words for Soloists.....	54
Appendix M: Performance Flyer.....	56
Appendix N: Performance Program.....	57

## Rehearsal Journal

**September 9, 2015**

We just finished our first rehearsal with the children for *Sticky Notes and Bible Quotes* and it went wonderfully! I absolutely loved the entire experience and had so much fun directing, teaching, and encouraging the kids!

Rehearsals were held in the Wylie United Methodist Church sanctuary during the weekly Wednesday night activities times. As children entered and signed in, permission forms were given to parents. This form gave permission for the videotaping and photographing of the children. Some families chose to complete the form as they registered their children for Wednesday nights. Others chose to take the form home and return it the following week. First we arranged everybody into specific seats in the sanctuary. Kindergarteners sat together; 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders sat together, and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders sat together. These groupings were based on how the children are typically grouped on Wednesday nights. There was a lot of excitement as children arrived. As this was the first Wednesday night since the previous school year, several happy and energetic reunions occurred between the children. It took a while for everyone to settle down and get ready to begin.

Once everyone was settled, the children's minister, Carlene Crim, introduced me to over forty children and adult volunteers and explained that I would be directing the musical we would be performing this fall. When she handed the rehearsal over to me, I introduced myself again by sharing a little about myself, where I went to school, and my relationship with Wylie United Methodist Church. This allowed me to begin to build a relationship with the children and adult leaders as well as established credibility as a director. I also explained more about the musical by first explaining what a musical was.

I asked if anyone liked to sing or dance or if anyone had ever been to see a musical. Several of the kids had a general idea of what a musical was and were excited to begin rehearsing. I explained that each Wednesday we would get to learn songs and choreography and that some may even be able to have speaking lines and solos. Upon hearing this, the kids were very excited.

There were a couple of kids, specifically the younger boys, who could be heard saying, “I don’t really like to do this” or “I’m really bad at singing” or “I really don’t want to dance.” Therefore, at the beginning of the rehearsal they ended up sitting in the back and watching. However, by the end of rehearsal they were joining in with the rest of the group singing and dancing. I was very impressed with the Kindergarteners. They were singing, dancing, and learning the music really quickly. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders as well as the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders were also excited.

I walked through the first song, “The Word,” with the cast. I demonstrated the choreography as I sang the chorus. After I demonstrated, I had the group do the choreography with me. Everyone was able to do this easily, as the choreography was basic hand motions without any footwork. After they demonstrated understanding of the chorus, I taught the first verse by repeating the same procedure. We completed the rest of the song in the same manner, always going back to the chorus in between verses to mirror what we will do in the song. Once the song was taught, we practiced the motions twice without the CD accompaniment. I sang and did the motions while the children mirrored me and sang what they knew. After reviewing, we added the CD accompaniment with vocals and ran through the song two more times. By this time almost every child was participating and only one or two were choosing to sit out. Having adult leaders there was



very helpful as they could monitor behavior so that my energy could be spent on directing and answering questions about the production.

After rehearsal, I began brainstorming different warm-ups and stretches that could engage and center the cast's energy at the beginning of rehearsal. One warm-up that came to mind was "Mommy Made Me Mash My M&Ms." This exercise practiced unison, tuneful singing as well as allowed children to practice portraying a variety of emotions from happy to sad to angry. I hope to bring a couple of warm-ups that we can work on each week to help create a routine that the kids can expect at each rehearsal.

One aspect of my instruction that I am contemplating is what type of expectations do I want to establish? I want to establish high expectations from the beginning of how we are going to rehearse. I know what that looks like in a school classroom environment but I'm not sure what that exactly looks like in a church environment for a group of children that has never performed a musical before.

I also had the opportunity to work with the preschoolers who will be singing two or three songs before the performance. When I entered the classroom, they were running around and full of energy. When I came in, I simply said, "Hello, boys and girls. How are we doing today?" and they all stopped what they are doing and looked at me. I introduced myself and began singing songs with them. It was exciting to see how, just as I had learned in class, keeping the kids engaged and giving expectations such as "Now, let's stand up in a circle," or "Now, let's sit down" made the time run smoothly. We sang "B-I-B-L-E" and "This Little Light of Mine." Both of which they knew already. I introduced the song "Deep and Wide." This song was easy to learn, but the aspect of taking a word away each time, such as when we sang "Hmm and Wide," was difficult.

After rehearsal, I received positive feedback from Mrs. Carlene. I also was able to talk with the adults who were helping with the sound aspect of rehearsal. I casted my vision for what would be needed and answered any questions they had.

Looking back on rehearsal, I loved getting to apply the knowledge I have learned in my education and music courses to my actual directing and instruction. This next week, I will review “The Word” as well as teach another song. I will also work on making copies of the practice CD to distribute to the children next Wednesday.

### **September 16, 2015**

The second rehearsal went well. I was really tired today so I had to be purposeful in building energy and excitement into the rehearsal even when I did not feel like I personally had that energy. Despite my need for energy, I was happy with how the rehearsal went.

We began with stretches and warm-ups. We utilize the M&M warm-up and practiced tuneful singing as well as vocal and facial expressions. The placement of the piano is off to the side of the sanctuary which is not conducive to the rehearsal set-up so the warm-ups were acapella. This has its benefits and difficulties. The children had to listen to me and those around them which provided excellent ear training. However, at times, the children began to focus more on the emotion rather than the singing. Having a piano to guide them instead of just my voice may have helped.

After warm-ups, we reviewed “The Word.” Several of the kids remembered the motions and were singing along with the CD. We also learned “Children of God.” However, as one of the verses is going to be a solo, we only learned the first verse and

the chorus. We learned this song in the same way as we learned “The Word.” After learning the song, several of the kids wanted to come up and help lead the dancing as they have done during Vacation Bible School. I realized that I need to come up with a procedure in regards to who can come to the front and help me lead the dancing. I’m thinking if we are reviewing a song, a few kids can come up and help. These kids would be decided based on if they are actively participating in rehearsal. This would provide an incentive for those who are singing or dancing half-heartedly or not at all. When we are learning a song, I will be the only person at the front so everyone can focus on learning.

At the end of rehearsal, I told the group about the practice CDs that they get to take home to listen to and practice. I also briefly discussed auditions and what they would look like. While auditions will not be for two weeks, this puts a bug in their ear and helps them start thinking about for which part they would like to audition.

### **September 23, 2015**

Began rehearsal with warm-ups including M&Ms and the new “Countdown.” This warm-up consists of counting backwards from five while shaking the right hand five times, then the left five times, the right foot five times, and then the left five times. Then the routine begins again but starting at four. The counting begins at a whisper and grows in volume each time the routine begins so that “one” is very loud. The only condition is that once we say the last “one” everyone must be silent. This allows the kids to explore a variety of speaking levels but also gets energy out. By ending in silence immediately after prevents any chaos from erupting. I also began the call and response of “One, Two, Three, Eyes on me – One, Two, Eyes on you!” to collect the attention of the cast. I am

hoping to add another warm-up to the routine and am very excited and pleased with how well and quickly they are learning.

This week we reviewed “The Word” and “Children of God.” Helpers came to the front to assist me during these songs. We learned “Resist Him” which I think will be a favorite for the kids as they really enjoyed and emphasized the chorus each time we sang it.

A good portion of time was spent discussing the upcoming auditions. I explained to the group that they could audition for a solo or a bible verse. To audition for a solo, they would need to sing the first part of “Resist Him” – we reviewed this specific section in rehearsal. If they do not know that specific part of the song, then I will let them sing “Jesus Loves Me.” To audition to recite a bible verse, they needed to read or recite their favorite bible verse. I realized afterwards that some of kids had the same favorite bible verse and did not think it was okay if they auditioned with the same one. Next week, prior to auditions, I will need to make sure to clarify that it is okay to read the same bible verse as someone else. I also realized that some may not have a favorite bible verse so I will need to have one ready for them to read, probably Philippians 4:13 as that is the verse they were working on in bible class tonight. I also told them that I would send out an email with all of the audition information on it so they can practice.

After rehearsal, I met with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders separately to discuss speaking roles for the skits. I decided that the skits would be only for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders as I knew they would be able to learn the lines. It also was a fun way to set them apart as leaders in the group. To audition for a skit, they needed to review the skit “Forgiven, Forgotten” (See Appendix G). I provided physical and electronic copies for those

interested. During the audition, they will pick one of the two characters to read while I read the other character.

The goal of the auditions is to see who is interested and who comes prepared to audition. Everyone who auditions will receive a part. How well they do in the auditions, reading, singing, or acting, will determine the type of role they will receive. If a child has difficulty matching pitch, I may put them in a group solo. If a child is very expressive and energetic when auditioning for a skit, I would cast them in a more expressive role. To recite a bible verse, I am just looking to see that they have the courage to come audition as the bible verse does not need to be memorized. The kids were very excited and interested in the auditions. Several approached me after rehearsal and showed me the bible verse they were going to recite.

### **September 30, 2015**

Today began with a regular rehearsal. We warmed up with the routine warm-ups with a new addition. I would ask the cast, “Do you like broccoli?” and they would reply, “No, no, no, no, nooo” (sung descending sol, fa, mi, re, do). Lots of kids brought their bibles so we practiced “The Word.” We also learned “Treasures” and discussed what it means to “store our treasures in Heaven.” To conclude, we reviewed “Resist Him” as it was a part of the upcoming auditions.

Prior to dismissal to classes and auditions, we reviewed how auditions would work. Everyone would go to their classes and I would audition individuals one at a time beginning with those in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class, then the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class, and finally the Kindergarten class. So many 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders wanted to audition that I

could only get through their class tonight. Therefore, auditions for the other ages will be next week. About four or five 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders wanted a solo. Some will probably have individual solos and some will perform in group solos. Lots of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders auditioned for the skits. I am eager to begin casting each skit and figuring out how to use each child's talents to the best of their ability. I hope to decide skit casting this weekend and then solos and bible verses next week after I finish auditions.

The procedure for auditions consisted of the following. I pulled those auditioning out individually. The adult leaders kept track of the audition order and who I would pull out next. As I walked them to the classroom where the audition was held, I got to know them: their name, age, grade, etc. Some came to the audition prepared while others were not quite sure what they wanted to audition for. I will need to talk with Mrs. Carlene prior to casting to see if anyone who auditioned would most likely not be attending rehearsals or come prepared. Upon entering the classroom, I wrote down the child's name, age, and grade and asked them for what they would like to audition. Few came in knowing "Resist Him" so we resorted to singing "Jesus Loves Me." This allowed me to get a sense of their ability to match pitch and the size of their voice. Those auditioning for skits varied in expression. I could tell who had acting or performing experience based on how animated they chose to be. Some chose to only read a bible verse and several quoted John 3:16 from memory.

I made notes on my paper during each audition and notated with a check, check plus, or check minus to state my initial thoughts on each audition. A check plus meant that they did very well and needed to be placed in that type of role. A check meant that they did well and a check minus meant that they should have a small or group part in that

type of role. As this is a church production and not a community theater, I wanted to have every child that auditioned involved in something. I did not want to turn anyone down. Therefore, whoever auditions will receive some type of role related to what they auditioned.

I also experienced communicating with parents. One parent, who was also an adult helper, asked if I was the only one auditioning the children or if there would be someone else with me? She was concerned about only one person deciding the roles. I explained that this musical had several opportunities for different roles and the kids were not competing for one part. Every child would have an opportunity to shine. I also assured her that I would be consulting the children's ministers prior to casting. Looking back, I felt fine being the only person doing auditions as I also recorded auditions on my phone. However, it would not hurt to have someone else in the room as well to provide a second set of ears.

This week, I will send an email to parents letting them know about auditions and the extension into next week. I am excited to see how God works through this entire production process and how each person that comes to auditions will fit into the larger picture of the production. It was encouraging seeing the children excited to read a bible verse, sing a solo, or act in a skit. This is the first time that many of these kids have ever been in a performance like this. Mrs. Carlene and Mrs. Theresa Sauve were very helpful in thinking ahead about what auditions would look like and how they would work around the regular bible classes.

## **October 7, 2015**

The remainder of auditions just finished and they went really well! Prior to auditions, we rehearsed. Beginning with the traditional warm-up routine, we reviewed “Treasures” and learned “God is Near.” I could tell a lot of the kids are listening to their CDs as they already knew the song. We reviewed “Resist Him” again in preparation for the audition, although several ended up singing a different song.

Several of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders chose to recite a bible verse. It was interesting to see who came in with a bible verse memorized and who chose to read a scripture from their bible. Those who auditioned for a solo were not confident on “Resist Him” so they sang either “Jesus Loves Me” or “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.”

The Kindergarten auditions were a little different as several Kindergarteners did not know how to read and did not have a bible verse memorized. For those cases, I would recite a bible verse and have them repeat after me. I would increase the number of words to test how much they could remember with their short term memory. If they cannot memorize it by the time of the performance, we can have an adult leader read the verse to them and have them repeat it.

As several children auditioned to read a bible verse, there should be enough for everyone to recite one bible verse. Some may be able to recite an additional one as well. The younger kids will be assigned a shorter bible verse while the older kids will be assigned a longer one. Those who auditioned for solos were similar to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, a couple could sing their own solo and a few will sing in a group solo. I need to find out what works best for each kid. Definitely needing to pray and ask the Lord for discernment in casting.



Through this audition process, I learned the importance of how I set up the audition room. Chairs were everywhere as it was Sunday school classroom so I pushed the chairs against the walls and out of the way. Kids, by nature, would still wander around the classroom, but less distraction enabled them to stand and audition.

### **October 10, 2015**

I just finished a two hour meeting with the children's ministers, Mrs. Carlene and Mrs. Theresa. We talked about the casting of solos, bible verses, and skits. I had an initial casting list ready for them to look at. Adjustments were made based on their suggestions and the list was finalized (See Appendix H and Appendix I). We discussed dates for rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and realistically looked at how much the kids would be able to learn prior to the show. We also scheduled times for solo practice on two different Sunday afternoons. Bible verses will be rehearsed during Wednesday night classes with the younger kids. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will begin meeting at 4:30 for the next two weeks to practice learning the skits and memorizing bible verses.

After the meeting, we went to the sanctuary to brainstorm ideas for the stage, placement of riser, and decorations. The initial plan is for the risers to be on stage right, the whiteboard stage left along with mics for those reciting bible verses, and a mic in the middle for those singing solos. The entire stage and sanctuary will be covered in sticky notes. First Baptist of Abilene performed the same musical several years ago so I will be contacting them to see if they still have any props or sets from their performance that we can borrow.

This meeting created a sense of urgency as we have slightly over a month left of rehearsal. I need to begin planning how I am going to wean the kids off of the vocal tracks and start practicing with the accompaniment tracks. I will also attempt to teach 2-3 songs these next two weeks. Despite the urgency and anxious feelings about the approaching performance, I am incredibly thankful for Mrs. Carlene and Mrs. Theresa's support and help brainstorming and planning.

### **October 14, 2015**

This evening consisted of a three hour long rehearsal and began with printing and copying the scripts and solos to pass out at rehearsal. I met with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at 4:30 to work on the skits. Others began to arrive as rehearsal progressed to practice their bible verses. It was a little distracting having every person in the same rehearsal space, but it was necessary as I would be pulling different actors every couple of minutes.

I began by explaining how to read a script and explained how the skits fit into the overall musical. Everyone sings a song, then the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders perform a skit, and then bible verses are read before the process begins again. I also made sure that they understood how bible verses are like sticky notes, how the skits are depicting the "sticky situations" we might find ourselves in, and how we need bible verses to help us out of those "sticky situations."

This rehearsal focused on the basic blocking of each skit as well as helping the actors understand the lesson or message of each skit. I also tried to make the process fun as the rehearsal was long. There were a lot of questions, comments, and suggestions

thrown at me from the kids as we rehearsed. I need to work on managing small group rehearsal as it is quite different than what I'm used to in an elementary classroom.

“Humble Yourselves Before the Lord” and “Lead Me, Lord” were both learned in the musical rehearsal with the rest of the cast. They learned these songs fairly quickly. My plan is to start singing without the vocal track next week. We only have five weeks left until the show!

After rehearsal, I met with those who had solos during their class time. We talked about what their solo was and that we would be meeting to practice these solos on Sundays. During class time, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders worked on drawing pictures or writing positive notes on the sticky notes that will fill the sanctuary. They also worked on memorizing bible verses.

One of the adult leaders provided much needed encouragement this evening and said how she admired how well I captured the kids attention during rehearsal and how they are singing beautifully. It was nice to hear support from those who are helping and to be reassured that the kids are growing and improving each rehearsal. It's difficult because I cannot help kids practice, I can only remind them to continue listening to their CDs. I am learning that I cannot be in control of everything, even though I'm the director. There are certain things that I have to relinquish control of and place in God's hands. Sounds like a sticky note to me!

### **October 18, 2015**

First solo rehearsal is in the books! We began with the “God is Near” group soloists. We reviewed the song and identified which parts of the song were the specific

solos. Continuing to work on focusing rehearsals as several of the kids were interested in the piano and how it worked as well as wanting to tell me about what was going on in their lives. Need to work on finding a balance so they can use their energy in productive ways and I can meet my rehearsal goals. We worked on finding our singing voice as some had difficulty matching pitch.

We also worked on a duet in “Children of God.” After identifying the duet, we learned the words and practiced using our singing voices. Only one girl showed up for the other duets so I worked with her on her individual parts but ended that rehearsal early because no one else arrived. I enjoyed working one on one as it allowed me to see how she learned as an individual and to focus on specific details of the song. Next time, I will need to make sure to remind AND confirm that the soloists will be attending the solo rehearsals.

### **October 21, 2015**

As per usual procedure, we began rehearsal with warm-ups. I then explained that we would be rehearsing without the words on the CD. Rather than being nervous or shy like I thought they would be, the kids were excited and sang very well for their first time without the vocals. Some remembered the words and the choreography before I did! Of course, the verses were not as strong or confident as the chorus which is to be expected as the choruses are sung more than the verses.

After the music rehearsal, I worked with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders on the skits. I gave them a two week deadline for memorization. This is a couple of weeks before the performance in case some have difficulties memorizing lines.

One girl had difficulty with one skit because she did not want to say her line of “I don’t like her.” This provided an opportunity to talk with her about how, when we act, we are not acting as ourselves but as someone else. Those who see us when we are acting know that we are not really that character. Acting provides us an opportunity to show others what they or someone they may know looks like. We can serve as a reminder to others of how not to act or what not to say. While she understood, she still didn’t feel comfortable so we changed the line to “I really don’t care for her.”

I talked with a parent today about her child who has asthma. She wanted to make sure that he could use his inhaler onstage if he needed it and that he may not be able to stand the whole time because he gets winded. I explained that it is completely fine if he needs to use his inhaler as his health is more important to me than the performance. She also asked about when the performance was and what they needed to wear. That was frustrating because I explained all of that information in an email that was sent to the parents. I simply told her that I had sent an email out with the information, reminded her of the information, and said that another email will be coming in the future with that same information.

### **November 1, 2015**

Another solo rehearsal is in the books and we are three weeks away from the performance! The struggle with the group solo rehearsal was getting everyone to focus and stand still. Therefore, I decided to keep the kids moving as we practiced. We practiced in different locations on the stage ending in the spot in which they will perform.

One of the girls in a duet was not singing because she wasn't confident in her singing. We talked about how we do not have to worry and that we can simply sing for Jesus. I asked her if she had a favorite song to sing and she answered "God's Not Dead." So I found that song on my phone and we sang it so that she could sing something that was comfortable and fun for her to sing. We then applied that singing to the duet. The partner was incredibly supportive the entire time. She would try to encourage her and was patient as we moved step by step. I enjoyed getting to take a moment to talk with her about confidence and where our confidence comes from – Jesus. The next group came in to sing their duets and group solos. We sang through each song and identified individual solos. I am interested to see how they take what they learned today and apply it to the rehearsal on Wednesday.

Several items are now on my to-do list. I found out today that First Baptist does not have any of the props from their performance so I need to begin brainstorming ideas for props and decorations. I also need to start working on the program.

### **November 4, 2015**

Tonight we had our first full run through of the entire show! I was so proud with how they did! There is still a lot to clean up, specifically the transitions and the skit lines. After warm-ups, we lined all of the kids on the risers. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade were on the back row, 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade were on the middle row, and Kindergarten was on the bottom row. Some kids who chose not to participate helped make additional sticky notes.

As we ran through the show, we worked on transitioning from a song, to the skit, to the bible verses. Overall it went smoothly! People laughed during the skits and the kids

remembered the motions and words. It's really turning into something. With two or three more rehearsals, they are going to be wonderful!

The adult helpers have been incredibly helpful and supportive! I would love to come up with something to express my gratitude for all of their help. I also need to create posters with the words of the songs so that the kids can remember the words.

### **November 11, 2015**

We have one week until our performance! This evening we had a complete run through. We started at 6:10 and ended around 7:20 so the performance was a little over an hour. We are continuing to clean the lines to the skits. Transitions were much smoother than last week's rehearsal and will continue to become even smoother in future rehearsals.

The children practiced walking on to the risers and grabbing a bible from the book cart before they walked to the risers. For each song, we had specific posters that reminded the kids of who was performing in a skit, who was reading a bible verse, and what the words were to the song. Each song was color coordinated so those who were learning to read could recognize the color of their song. Adult leaders stood behind the kids with a list of roles and helped remind kids of when to step off the risers for their role.

There was some struggling with the microphone today. Those helping with the sound system specifically chose a microphone that would pick up sound from far away. The speaker did not need to be an inch away from the microphone. However, the kids spoke so quietly that even the microphone could not pick up their voice. We will work on that more next Sunday before the full dress rehearsal.

The kids will arrive for the rehearsal at 4pm. I will be arriving at 2:30 along with several of the adult leaders to set up the stage for the performance and decorate the sanctuary. Tonight was the night that I truly began to understand the need for parent volunteers. I love serving in the background and making the lives of others easier, so I naturally wanted to help with all the behind the scenes details of the rehearsal. However, as the director, I could not. I had to stay at the front and direct the kids. It felt strange sitting there and feeling like I wasn't doing anything when in reality I was fulfilling my role as director. I had to let the parents fulfill the roles they were assigned. I'm truly thankful for all of their hard work as they run around, make posters, hold posters, and help with odds and ends that I am not even aware of.

### **November 15, 2015**

Last run through before the performance. Check. I arrived early to set up the risers, chairs, and decorate the sanctuary. By the time the kids arrived for rehearsal there were sticky notes everywhere! The white board was covered with colorful poster board that said "STICKY NOTES & BIBLE QUOTES" with sticky notes around it. Sticky notes were on the chairs, the windows, the pillars, railings, and even the sound booth.

As kids came in, they added more sticky notes to the sanctuary. They then lined up outside of the sanctuary for the final run through. Transitions continued to be the hardest part of the performance, but the kids have improved tremendously in that area since the first run through two weeks ago. We also struggled with "Resist Him" so we practiced that song after the run through.



We now have two microphones at different heights so the taller kids are not squatting down to be heard. We also adjusted the microphones to help pick up the voices. The soloists did well with the microphones but could not see the words from their position so we are going to make an additional set of words that can be held right in front of them.

Mrs. Kitten Arthur came to act as the “Leader” in the skits. Prior to the rehearsal we discussed her blocking. Most of the blocking was very natural and gave her freedom to move where she would like within the skit area. There was only one skit, “I Want,” that required her to be in a specific location. She also provided a lot of encouragement reminding me that these kids are going to remember this experience years down the road as they read scripture and reflect on the songs we learned this fall.

The kids performed “The Word” for the offertory during the church service today and did very well! I love seeing how they turn on the charm for a live audience! With only a couple of days until the performance we are just finishing up odds and ends on the administrative side. Can’t wait to see how they do on Wednesday!

### **November 18, 2015**

We did it! The performance is over and the kids were phenomenal! The excitement and energy they had on the stage tonight was contagious. Over 100 people came to see the performance. I was in awe of the support from the church and the families. While excited, several of the kids were nervous providing opportunities for intentional conversations about trusting God and performing for Him.

I smile thinking of the spur of the moment changes in the performance. Parts of the performance went out of order and additional dance moves were added by some of our younger cast members, but no one knew that it wasn't supposed to happen because the kids kept performing.

Conversations with parents and kids after the performance were probably the most memorable parts of the night. Several parents came up to me and thanked me for sharing the gift of scripture with their family by helping their kids hide it in their hearts. One grandmother shared how her granddaughter has been singing these songs as the drive in the car – without the CD. One of the kindergarten boys asked if he did well in the performance while another kindergarten girl ran up and gave me a hug. It is truly amazing to see how God has worked through this performance and this entire experience to build relationships.

As always, I am reflecting on what I have learned through this experience. Next time, I will be more specific about my expectations of standing still when on the risers. Several of the kids were moving around when they were not singing and whispering to the person beside them. When bibles were passed out for the final number, some of the kids began comparing bibles with the person next to them rather than hold it still.

I am truly thankful for the support from the parents, adult leaders, and the children's ministers. I could not have done this without all of their help and encouragement. This experience has been truly remarkable and I cannot wait to do it again!

## Appendix A

### Email Correspondence

#### **April 20, 2015 – Possible Children’s Musical at Wylie Next Fall Julie Brinkman to Carlene Crim & Jeff Hatcher**

Pastor Jeff and Mrs. Carlene,

I am writing to request a time to meet with you both sometime this week to discuss the possibility of directing a children's musical this upcoming fall at Wylie. The musical would be for elementary and possibly middle school students at Wylie. The production would consist of several chorus numbers as well as solos and speaking parts which would allow something for every child who wants to be involved.

The musical would be about 30-45 minutes and would be a means of sharing the gospel with those in the audience. I envision meeting weekly for rehearsals over a period of 6-8 weeks. I would be working under the supervision of a few of my ACU professors as this project would count as an Honors Thesis Project. I would also welcome Wylie staff and volunteers as well as other music students or high school youth that would like to help with this production.

I have been looking at several different musicals - from Christmas to Thanksgiving to a musical about being “fishers of men” that could be performed any time of the year. I would be happy to show you the musicals I have been considering and, of course, would require your approval of the final decision.

Based on the price of the materials, it would cost about \$20/child to perform the musical. This would pay for the rights to perform the musical, the CDs for the children to assist them in learning their parts as well as the accompaniment CD for the production.

As Wylie UMC has been a large blessing to me during my time in Abilene, I would love the opportunity to give a little back to WUMC . I feel confident that the children would be blessed through the gift of music and performance of God’s truth and faithfulness. I would cherish the opportunity to combine my faith with my love for music and children.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

God Bless,  
Julie Brinkman

\*See Appendix B for Suggested Materials

**Aug 18, 2015 – Wylie Children's Musical**  
**Julie Brinkman to Carlene Crim**

Hi Mrs. Carlene!

Hope you had a wonderful summer! I am back in Abilene and just wanted to update you on the Children's Musical for this fall.

I have been looking over the music and script and am very excited to begin teaching and working with the children!

3. After looking at the pricing for books, CDs, etc, for 20-30 kids, I would recommend buying through Discover Worship ([www.discoverworship.com](http://www.discoverworship.com)). It is an online subscription that allows churches to have access to thousands of worship songs, musicals, and sheet music. A year subscription would provide Wylie with complete and immediate access to all of the "Sticky Notes and Bible Quotes" materials. The annual membership cost is \$299 which is cheaper than what it would cost to buy individual choral books, listening CDs, and the accompaniment CD for 20-30 children. Buying individually would be closer to \$400.

The subscription would also allow us to make as many copies of the music as we needed to in case more children join throughout the semester. Wylie would also be able to utilize the membership for worship and offertory in addition to the children's musical.

2. I am working on a form for parents to sign that:
  - explains the project I am doing
  - requests permission to take pictures of the children during rehearsal to use for my project
  - gives dates and important information
  - includes volunteer sign ups

Would love to know your thoughts on using the Discover Worship membership as well as if there is anything else you would like on the form. I will email you a copy of the form once it is completed.

Thank you again for this opportunity! Hope you had a wonderful summer. Looking forward to being back with the Wylie Family!

God Bless,  
 Julie Brinkman

**Aug 18, 2015 RE: Wylie Children's Musical  
Carlene Crim to Julie Brinkman**

Hello Julie, Glad that you are back in town. The membership will be good. I will take care of all that. Lets get together soon and talk through details again.  
Looking forward to you leading the kids. Blessings Carlene

**Aug 22, 2015 – RE: Wylie Children's Musical  
Julie Brinkman to Carlene Crim**

Thank you so much. I would love to get together and talk about details!

God Bless,  
Julie Brinkman

**Sept 9, 2015 – Parent Letter for Sticky Notes  
Julie Brinkman to Carlene Crim**

Hi Mrs. Carlene!

Attached is a copy of the parent letter for Sticky Notes. Looking forward to tonight!

God Bless,  
Julie Brinkman

\*See Appendix E for Parent Letter/Registration

**Sept 27, 2015 – Sticky Notes Parent Letter 9/27  
Julie Brinkman to Carlene Crim**

Hi Mrs. Carlene!

Would you be able to send this parent email to all of the families that come on Wednesday nights please? Just wanted to update them about rehearsals and remind them about the auditions.

Thank you again for all of your support!

God Bless,  
Julie Brinkman

Hello!

I have absolutely loved getting to work with your children as we rehearse for the musical, *Sticky Notes and Bible Quotes*, this fall! They are learning the choreography and songs very quickly and are eager to come to the front and be my assistants as we practice each song. Even more, I am excited that they are beginning to understand the biblical truths in the songs that we are singing.

By now, every family should have a CD that contains all of the music. The first half of the track consists of all of the songs with the vocals. The second half of the track consists of the accompaniment. We have learned three songs: “The Word” (Track 1), “Children of God” (Track 3), and “Resist Him” (Track 4). Please continue to encourage your children to listen to their CDs and practice their choreography. They are more than welcome to listen to other songs that we have not yet learned as well! If you do not yet have a CD, there are some available in the church office.

THIS Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, we will be having auditions during our Wednesday night activities. Your children can audition for solos and speaking parts.

3. **Solo Auditions (All Ages)** – Children will sing the first part of the song “Resist Him” (Track 11) that we learned this past Wednesday. They will sing from the beginning until the end of the chorus (29pprox.. 1:05). If they do not yet have a CD, they can sing another song they know such as “Jesus Loves Me.”
2. **Speaking Parts (All Ages)** – Children will read a Bible Verse of their choice aloud – it does not have to be memorized. It is okay if more than one child reads the same bible verse.
3. **Skits (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Only)** – Students will choose a character and read/act that character’s part from the attached script. This does not have to be memorized.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you again for your support and for encouraging your children to listen to the CD and talking about the meaning of each song. I am looking forward to how God is going to work through the rehearsals and performance of this musical!

God Bless,  
Julie Brinkman

\*See Appendix G for “Forgiven, Forgotten” Sketch

**Sept 28, 2015 – RE: Sticky Notes Parent Letter 9/27  
Carlene Crim to Julie Brinkman**

Hello yes I will send it to the parents. Carlene.

**Oct 1, 2015 – Sticky Notes Audition Letter: Parent Updates  
Julie Brinkman to Carlene Crim**

Hi Mrs. Carlene!

Couple of things for you:

- 1) Would you mind sending the email below to the parents please? (Any suggestions on format and content changes are most welcomed.) I would love to update them on auditions.
- 2) Wanted to remind you that I will be gone this Sunday. I am still working on getting the video recordings of the musical songs on a DVD. The children are more than welcome to sing the VBS songs again this week if that also works for you.
- 3) I recorded tonight's audition for reference and would love to talk to you and Mrs. Teresa about casting decisions before they are officially decided to hear your thoughts. Also, I realized that I was the only one watching auditions tonight. I didn't know if it would be better to have a second person in the room for next week's auditions so that when we announce the roles, solos, and bible verses there won't be an opportunity for anyone to think their child didn't get a fair audition if they didn't get the role/part that they wanted because it was based on one person's opinion during the audition. Or that may not be a problem you foresee happening. Just something I thought about when reflecting on auditions and the audition process. My goal is for everyone who auditioned to be able to do something (solo/bible verse/ skit). Would love to hear your thoughts!

Thank you again for all of your support and encouragement throughout this process! I would consider it a privilege to hear any constructive comments you have as I continue this learning process. I welcome any insights you can give me with your vast experience in children's ministry.

God Bless,  
Julie

Hello!

There was a wonderful turn out for auditions Wednesday night! I loved seeing how eager your children were to audition for singing, reading or acting parts. There were so many children wanting to audition that we were unable to get through everybody – what a blessing! So...we are going to continue with auditions next Wednesday! The 4th and 5th

graders auditioned this week and were fantastic! We will continue with 3rd, 2nd, and 1st graders as well as Kindergarteners next week. I am looking forward to the energy and enthusiasm that they will bring to the rehearsal and auditions! Thank you again for the privilege of working with your children. They are a blessing to me!

God Bless, Julie Brinkman

**Oct 12, 2015 – Sticky Note Casting & Important Dates**  
**Julie Brinkman to Carlene Crim**

Dear Parents,

I'm so excited to announce the results of the auditions for "Sticky Notes & Bible Quotes." Ms. Carlene, Ms. Teresa and I discussed the casting and are very pleased and excited about how well the children did. Every child who auditioned for a part received a role in our production! The role they received was based on the part for which they chose to audition. If your child chose to not audition they will still play a major part of the production by singing in the main chorus.

And now...drum roll please!

**BIBLE VERSES** - Attached is the casting for those who will be saying a bible verse. We will be working with each child to memorize their bible verse(s) during Wednesday nights. We would love for you to ask your child what verse they are memorizing as well as talk with them about what their bible verse teaches us or how we can use it in our daily lives!

**SOLOS** - Solos will be selected from the assigned songs. The specific solos will be given on Wednesday. If your child will be performing a solo, please have them listen to and learn their assigned song.

- "Children of God" - Sydney Katona Robison, Katherine Dalton
- "God is Near" - Dalton McKee, Colton McKee, Emily Viralli, Max Moore, Braxton Richardson, Katherine Dalton, Sydney Katona
- "Humble Yourselves Before the Lord" - Jessica Hunter, Grace Warren
- "Forgiven" - Taylor Wood, Charlee Frazier, Jessica Hunter, Grace Warren
- "Lead Me, Lord" - Taylor Wood, Charlee Frazier

***Soloists will be rehearsing on Sunday, October 18th & Sunday, November 1st:***

4-4:45pm - "Children of God" & "God is Near"

4:45-5:30pm - "Humble Yourselves Before the Lord," "Forgiven," & "Lead Me, Lord"

**SKITS** - (4th & 5th Graders only) Specific scripts and respective roles will be given out on Wednesday:

- Stetson Bighahoz



- Logan Huffington
- Jessica Hunter
- Sydney Katona Robison
- Conner Sauve
- Jenny Stump
- Tina Stump
- Grace Warren

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- Sunday, November 11th*** - Full Dress Rehearsal, Time TBD
- Wednesday, November 18th***
  - 5:30 - arrival, bring costume***
  - 6:15 - performance***

### **COSTUME**

Solid color T-Shirt, no print  
Blue Jeans

Thank you so much for your support! Please continue to encourage your children to listen to their CDs and practice the dances they have learned. They have been doing a wonderful job in rehearsals. I've seen them walking in the hallways singing the songs and asking when we get to work on "the play" again.

Hope you and your family have a wonderful week and are able to see God use a bible verse as a "sticky note" in your own lives.

God Bless,  
Julie Brinkman

\*See Appendix H for Bible Verse Assignments  
\*See Appendix I for Skits Casting

### **Oct 12, 2015 – RE: Sticky Note Casting & Important Dates Carlene Crim to Julie Brinkman**

Note sent. Ready for wednesday. Also we have our leader for the skits. Blessings Carlene

### **Oct 12, 2015 – RE: Sticky Note Casting & Important Dates Julie Brinkman to Carlene Crim**

Wonderful! Thank you so much!

God Bless,  
Julie Brinkman

**Oct 14, 2015 – Attn: Debbie McClarty – Children's Musical  
Julie Brinkman to Debbie McClarty**

Dear Ms. McClarty,

My name is Julie Brinkman and I am directing the children's musical, "Sticky Notes & Bible Quotes" by Dennis Allen with Wylie United Methodist Church this November. Wendy Weeks shared with me that First Baptist performed the same musical several years ago. She mentioned that you still had the props from your performance and might consider lending those props for our performance and rehearsals.

Our performance is Wednesday, November 18th and we are hoping to integrate props into rehearsals within the next week or so. Would it be possible for the Children's Music Ministry at Wylie UMC to borrow your props for our production? We would return the props by the end of the week of the performance.

Thank you for considering. Feel free to email or call me if you have any questions or need any more information. You can also email our Children's Minister, Carlene Crim, at [ccrim@wyliemethodist.org](mailto:ccrim@wyliemethodist.org).

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

In His Service,

Julie Brinkman

**Oct 14, 2015 RE: Attn: Debbie McClarty  
Debbie McClarty to Julie Brinkman**

Hey Julie  
This was b4 my time  
Can u give me ideas of props you need??  
I'm asking around here  
Debbie

**Oct 14, 2015 RE: Attn: Debbie McClarty  
Julie Brinkman to Debbie McClarty**

Mrs. Weeks mentioned that they used gigantic pencils and large poster board for larger than life sticky notes. There might have also been some other "school" themed props.

God Bless,  
Julie Brinkman

**Oct 20, 2015 RE: Attn: Debbie McClarty  
Debbie McClarty to Julie Brinkman**

Hey Julie: Wendy may have jumped the gun in offering our props. As of now, we can't locate any; nor do many of the people here remember that particular musical. But, in saying that, our maintenance foreman plans to look the Barn over thoroughly this afternoon or tomorrow. That's about the only other place we can think of that any props might be stored. I will be back with you ASAP to let you know. Obviously this was many many years ago when it was performed at our church.

Regards,  
Debbie McClarty  
FBC Children's Choir Coordinator

**Oct 21, 2015 – RE: Attn: Debbie McClarty  
Debbie McClarty to Julie Brinkman**

Still no luck....sorry...I did find some literature we had on the musical – books, old tapes, CD's, etc. that you are welcome to use...

Debbie Mc

**Nov 9, 2015 – BV and Props list  
Julie Brinkman to Carlene Crim**

Attached are the bible verses and props list.

Thanks for all of your support!

\*See Appendix J for Bible Verses  
\*See Appendix K for Prop List

**Nov 8, 2015 – Sticky Notes Parents Email**  
**Julie Brinkman to Carlene Crim**

Hello parents,

Thank you so much for the privilege of teaching your children and all of the support you are showing them as they are preparing for our performance on November 18th! We had our first full run through this past Wednesday and the kids did very well!

Below are important dates and times of upcoming rehearsals as well as information on the final performance:

- Wednesday, November 11
  - 6pm - Full run through
- Sunday, November 15
  - 10:30am - singing "The Word" during Sunday's service offertory
  - 4-6pm - Full Dress Rehearsal (snack provided)
- Wednesday, November 18
  - 5:30pm - arrive, children bring costume
  - 6pm – PERFORMANCE !!!

Costumes consist of blue jeans and a solid color shirt (no print). Costumes only need to be brought to the performance on Nov. 18; they will not be used at other rehearsals.

Thank you so much for your continued support! Please continue to encourage your children to listen to their CDs and practice their speaking roles/bible verses. They have been doing a wonderful job in rehearsals and I am excited to see what we can get done this next week before we perform for our wonderful families!

Hope you and your family have a wonderful week!

God Bless,  
Julie Brinkman

**Nov 16, 2015 – Musical**  
**Debbie McClarty to Julie Brinkman**

This is Debbie at Fbc weird thing our custodian just found a large pencil or maybe several I don't know I haven't seen them. it's in a prop room that we normally do not use for the children so anyway just wanted you to know if you need them for Wednesday night Yell at It me and I'll go take a look at them

**Nov 17, 2015 – RE: Musical**  
**Julie Brinkman to Debbie McClarty**

Thank you so much for letting me know! I think we are fine but thank you so much for the offer!

God Bless,  
 Julie Brinkman

**Nov 17, 2015 – Extra Words for Tomorrow**  
**Julie Brinkman to Carlene Crim**

Would you mind giving this to Mrs. Theresa? I do not have her email but told her I would send her the words we need for the soloists.

Also, was thinking of how to open and close tomorrow evening. Do you think Pastor Jeff would be willing to say a prayer to open the performance? To close, I was hoping to say thank you as the director and then turn it over to you, Pastor Jeff, or maybe even one of the kids to pray us out?

Thoughts?

Excited for the performance tomorrow! Thank you for all of your support!

\*See Appendix L for Extra Words for Soloists

**Nov 17, 2015 – Sticky Notes Program**  
**Julie Brinkman to Carlene Crim**

Attached is the program for tomorrow. Doesn't matter what color - thought yellow or a "sticky note" color might be fun :) Would love if someone could double check the names for spelling and in case I'm missing someone.

Thank you so much for all of your support and everything you are doing behind the scenes!

\*See Appendix N for Performance Program

## Appendix B

## Suggested Children's Musicals

## Sticky Notes &amp; Bible Quotes – Dennis &amp; Nan Allen

- |                      |             |                   |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| • 1 Full Score       | \$7.95      | 10 songs          |
| • Listening CD       | \$9.98 each | 10+ characters    |
| • 1 Accompaniment CD | \$90.00     | Elementary/Middle |

## Christmas in Reverse – Kathie Hill &amp; Melody Morris

- |                    |                |   |
|--------------------|----------------|---|
| • Listening CD     | \$49.95 for 10 | 13 songs, 10+ solos                     |
| • Choral Book      | \$7.95 each    | 9 characters, 30 min.                   |
| • Accompaniment CD | \$89.95        | 1 <sup>st</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade |

## Operation Christmas Child – Kathie Hill

- |                    |                |   |
|--------------------|----------------|---|
| • Listening CD     | \$49.95 for 10 | 10+ solos                               |
| • Choral Book      | \$7.95 each    | 9 characters, 45 min.                   |
| • Accompaniment CD | \$89.95        | 1 <sup>st</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade |

## The Bible Tells Me So Show – Kathie Hill

- |                    |                     |   |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| • Listening CD     | \$5.95 for 10+ each | 9+ solos                                |
| • Singer's Book    | \$11.95 for 3       | 13 roles, 45 min.                       |
| • Director's Book  | \$19.95             | 1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade |
| • Accompaniment CD | \$89.95             |   |

## Famous Kids of the Bible – Kathie Hill

- |                    |                     |             |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| • Listening CD     | \$5.95 for 10+ each | 10-16 solos |
| • Choral Book      | \$12.95 for 3       | 14 roles    |
| • Accompaniment CD | \$89.95             | Ages 6-14   |

## Fish Tales – Kathie Hill

- |                    |                |   |
|--------------------|----------------|---|
| • Listening CD     | \$49.95 for 10 | 8+ solos                                |
| • Choral Book      | \$7.95         | 5 roles, 15-48 min.                     |
| • Accompaniment CD | \$89.95        | 1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade |

## Wise Guys &amp; Starry Skies – Kathie Hill

- |                    |                |   |
|--------------------|----------------|---|
| • Listening CD     | \$49.95 for 10 | Multiple solos                          |
| • Choral Book      | \$11.95        | 7 roles, 45 min.                        |
| • Accompaniment CD | \$89.95        | 1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade |

\*Wylie UMC paid for the rights and necessary materials for *Sticky Notes and Bible Quotes* through the Discover Worship online database.

## Appendix C

## Original Rehearsal Schedule

Wed 9/9	-	Intro/Explain Musical “The Word”
Sun 9/13	-	Review: “The Word”
Wed 9/16	-	Review: “The Word” “Children of God” “Lead Me, Lord”  <i>***Give Audition Info for Solos &amp; Bible Verses***</i>
Sun 9/20	-	Review: “Children of God”, “Lead Me, Lord”, “The Word”
Wed 9/23	-	Review: “The Word”, “Children of God” “Lead Me, Lord” “Forgiven”  <i>***AUDITIONS: Solos, Skits, &amp; Bible Verses (after rehearsal)***</i>
Sun 9/27	-	Review:
Wed 9/30	-	Review: “God is Near”  Skits:
Sun 10/4	-	<i>***Julie Out of Town***</i>  Review:
Wed 10/7	-	Review: “Be Strong”  Skits:
Sun 10/11	-	Review:

- Wed 10/14 - Review:  
 “Humble Yourselves Before the Lord”  
 Skits
- Sun 10/18 - Review:  
 \*\*\**Late October – Build Sets with 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Graders*\*\*\*
- Wed 10/21 - Review:  
 “Love One Another”  
 “Treasures”  
 Skits
- Sun 10/25 - \*\*\*Julie Out of Town\*\*\*  
 Review:
- Wed 10/28 - Fall Festival  
 \*\*\**Solos, Skits, BVs Memorized & Learned Songs Memorized*\*\*\*
- Sun 11/1 - Review:
- Wed 11/4 - Review:  
 “Resist Him”  
 Skits
- Sun 11/8 - Review: Resist Him
- Wed 11/11 - \*\*\**Onstage Run Through*\*\*\*
- Sun 11/15 - Review each song (on stage???)  
 Run through all skits during Sunday School on stage
- Wed 11/18 - \*\*\**Performance!*\*\*\*



## Appendix D

## Final Rehearsal Schedule

Wed 9/9	-	Intro/Explain Musical “The Word”
Wed 9/16	-	Review: “The Word” “Children of God”
Wed 9/23	-	Review: “The Word”, “Children of God” “Resist Him”  *** <i>Give Audition Info for Solos &amp; Bible Verses</i> ***
Wed 9/30	-	Review: “The Word”, “Resist Him” “Treasures”  *** <i>AUDITIONS (4&amp;5): Solos, Skits, &amp; Bible Verses</i> <i>(after rehearsal)</i> ***
Wed 10/7	-	Review: “Treasures”, “Resist Him” “God is Near”  *** <i>AUDITIONS (K-3): Solos &amp; Bible Verses (after rehearsal)</i> ***
Wed 10/14	-	Review  Skits Rehearsal  “Humble Yourselves Before the Lord”  “Lead Me Lord”
Sun 10/18	-	Solos Rehearsal
Wed 10/21	-	Review without vocal tracks  Skits Rehearsal

Wed 10/28 - *Fall Festival*  
*\*\*\*Solos, Skits, BVs Memorized & Learned Songs Memorized\*\*\**

Sun 11/1 - Solos Rehearsal

Wed 11/4 - *\*\*\*Full Run Through\*\*\**

Wed 11/11 - *\*\*\*Full Run Through\*\*\**

Sun 11/15 - *\*\*\*Offertory Performance: "The Word"\*\*\**  
*\*\*\*Full Dress Rehearsal\*\*\**

Wed 11/18 - *\*\*\*Performance!\*\*\**

\*Sunday school music practices did not occur as originally planned as the majority of children arrived after the music time. Therefore, a DVD of the choreography was not made for the Sundays that I was out of town.

## Appendix E

### Parent Letter/Registration

September 9, 2015  
Dear Wylie UMC Parents,

My name is Julie Brinkman and I am very excited to partner with Wylie UMC in creating a children's musical! Wylie has played a large part in my life during my time at Abilene Christian University and I have been looking for a way to give back. Not only will this musical provide fun and new opportunities for your child, but the musical, *Sticky Notes and Bible Quotes*, will also help your child store/save/write God's word in his or her heart. I look forward to not only teaching your child the music and choreography, but also talking about what the bible verses we sing mean and how we can apply them to our lives!

I would also like to let you know that this musical will also serve as the final product of my Honors Thesis prior to graduation in December. Part of that involves videotaping the final performance (**Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**) as well as taking pictures during rehearsals. I would love to have your permission to use your child in pictures and video from rehearsals and the performance for the purpose of their inclusion in my Honors Thesis Project.

The cost of the musical and materials is graciously being covered by Wylie UMC. However, I still need your help in several ways:

1. Encourage your child to practice! They will soon be receiving sheet music and a CD that they can listen to in a car or at home.
2. Talk about the Bible Verses your child is singing and how he or she can apply them to his or her life – at home, at church, at school, etc.
3. Fill out the registration form below and let me know if you are free to help in additional areas. Please return next **Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**.

Thank you so much for your support as we work together to not only store/save/write God's Word in the heart of our children but teach them ways to share it with others.

God Bless,

Julie Brinkman  
ACU, Vocal Music Education Major  
jeb10c@acu.edu

### Wylie Children's Musical Registration

Actor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardians Names: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Addresses (checked regularly): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

I am available to help with (circle all that apply): Background Props Administration Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ You have my permission to use photos or video footage of my child for the purpose of Julie Brinkman's honors thesis.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix F

### Song List/Themes

36 verses

“The Word”

“Children of God”

Theme: Self-Worth

Ephesians 2:10; Psalm 139:14; John 1:12; Romans 8:17

\*\*\*Solo\*\*\*

(Pg. 11 & 12)

“God is Near”

Theme: Fear

Psalm 145:18; Psalm 91:11; Deuteronomy 31:6; John 14:27

\*\*\*Group Solo\*\*\*

(Pg. 19(?) & Pg. 22)

“Be Strong”

Theme: Weakness

Ephesians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 4:10; Luke 1:37; Philippians 4:13; Philippians 1:6

“Treasures”

Theme: Materialism

Matthew 6:19-21

“Resist Him”

Theme: Temptation

1 Peter 5:8; 1 Peter 5:9; Ephesians 6:11; James 4:7; 1 John 4:4

\*\*\*Solos\*\*\*

(Pg. 41-42)

“Love One Another”

Theme: Love

Mark 12:30-31; Matthew 5:46; John 13:34

“Humble Yourselves Before the Lord”

Theme: Guilt

1 John 1:9; Hebrews 4:16; James 4:10

\*\*\*2 Solos\*\*\*

(Pg. 56 & 57)

\*\*2 Part\*\*

“Forgiven”

Theme: Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 5:44; Romans 5:8

\*\*\*Entire Song is Group Solo\*\*\*

“Lead Me, Lord”

Theme: Guidance

Proverbs 3:5-6; James 1:5; Psalm 5:8

\*\*\*2 Solos\*\*\*

(Pg 69 &70)

“The Word, Reprise”

Theme: Bible

Psalm 119:105; Hebrews 4:12; Proverbs 30:5; Mark 13:31; Psalm 33:4

## Appendix G

### “Forgiven, Forgotten” Sketch

*Scene opens as Unforgiving steps forward with a long paper list.*

**UNFORGIVING:** See this list? I just finished it.

**ACTOR 1:** What’s it a list of?

**UNFORGIVING:** It’s a list of all the things that a certain person has done to me. I’m thinking about mailing it to the person. What do you think?

**ACTOR 1:** I don’t think so.

**UNFORGIVING:** Okay, then maybe I’ll put it in the newspaper so everybody else can see it, too.

**ACTOR 1:** Not a good idea.

**UNFORGIVING:** At least I’ll put it up on my bulletin board.

**ACTOR 1:** No!

**UNFORGIVING:** Then what do I do with it?

**ACTOR 1:** Tear it up.

**UNFORGIVING:** What? Tear it up? No, I just made it.

**ACTOR 1:** Then put a sticky note on it.

**UNFORGIVING:** Sticky note? What would it say?

Appendix H  
Bible Verse Assignments

<b>Bible Verse</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Song</b>
Ephesians 2:10	Aidan Moore	Children of God
Psalms 139:14	Dalton McKee	
John 1:12	Bryson Richardson	
Romans 8:17	Daisy Smith	
Psalms 145:18	Isaac Acevedo	God is Near
Psalms 91:11	Katherine Dalton	
Deuteronomy 31:6	Taylor Wood	
John 14:27	Lawren Hall	
Ephesians 6:10	Alex Moore	Be Strong
1 Corinthians 4:10	Kinleigh Richardson	
Luke 1:37	Max Moore	
Philippians 4:13	Braxton Richardson	
Philippians 1:6	Victoria Baker	
Matthew 6:19-21	Grace Warren	Treasures
1 Peter 5:8	Sydney Katona Robison	Resist Him
1 Peter 5:9	Kinleigh Richardson	
Ephesians 6:11	Charlee Frazier	
James 4:7	Colton McKee	
1 John 4:4	Lawren Hall	
Mark 12:30-31	Victoria Baker	Love One Another
Matthew 5:46	Alex Moore	
John 13:34	Evan Yoder	
1 John 1:9	Colton McKee	Humble Yourselves Before the Lord
Hebrews 4:16	Kinleigh Richardson	
James 4:10	Charlee Frazier	
Ephesians 4:32	Victoria Baker	Forgiven
Matthew 5:44	Katherine Dalton	
Romans 5:8	Aidan Moore	
Proverbs 3:5-6	Jadyn Thornhill	Lead Me, Lord
James 1:5	Evan Yoder	
Psalms 5:8	Jessica Hunter	
Psalms 119:105	Dalton McKee	The Word (Reprise)
Hebrews 4:12	Logan Huffington	
Proverbs 30:5	Bryson Richardson	
Mark 13:31	Daisy Smith	
Psalms 33:4	Isaac Acevedo	

## Appendix I

### Skits Castings

#### *I'm Nothing* ("Children of God")

Leader-----Kitten Arthur  
 Child 1-----Tina Stump  
 Child 2-----Stetson Bighahoz  
 Child 3-----Connor Saube  
 Josh-----Logan Huffington

#### *Me...Afraid?* ("God is Near")

Fearless-----Connor Saube  
 Friend 1-----Sydney Katona Robison  
 Friend 2-----Jenny Stump  
 Friend 3-----Grace Warren  
 Friend 4-----Stetson Bighahoz  
 Bully-----Logan Huffington  
 Leader-----Kitten Arthur

#### *Weak Days* ("Be Strong")

Actor 1-----Grace Warren  
 Actor 2-----Jessica Hunter  
 Actor 3-----Tina Stump  
 Leader-----Kitten Arthur

#### *I Want* ("Treasures")

Girl 1-----Sydney Katona Robison  
 Girl 2-----Jenny Stump  
 Boy 1-----Stetson Bighahoz  
 Leader-----Kitten Arthur

#### *The Good, the Bad, the Tempted* ("Resist Him")

Bad-----Logan Huffington  
 Good-----Grace Warren  
 Tempted-----Jessica Hunter

#### *Not Like Me* ("Love One Another")

Actor 1 (Boy)-----Connor Saube  
 Actor 2 (Girl)-----Sydney Katona Robison  
 Leader-----Kitten Arthur



*Wish I Hadn't* ("Humble Yourselves Before the Lord")

Actor 1-----Tina Stump

Actor 2-----Jenny Stump

*Forgiven, Forgotten* ("Forgiven")

Unforgiving-----Connor Saube

Actor 1-----Logan Huffington

*What to Do* ("Lead Me, Lord")

Actor 1-----Jenny Stump

Actor 2-----Jessica Hunter

Actor 3-----Stetson Bigahoz

Actor 4-----Sydney Katona Robison

Leader-----Kitten Arthur

*Sticky Note Me* ("The Word")

Leader-----Kitten Arthur

## Appendix J

### Bible Verses

**Ephesians 2:10** – “We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

**Psalms 139:14** – “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

**John 1:12** – “To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

**Romans 8:17** – “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.”

**Psalms 145:18** – “The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.”

**Psalms 91:11** – “For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.”

**Deuteronomy 31:6** – “The Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

**John 14:26** – “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

**Ephesians 6:10** – “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.”

**1 Corinthians 4:10** – “We are weak, but you are strong.”

**Luke 1:37** – “For nothing is impossible with God.”

**Philippians 4:13** – “I can do all things through him who gives me strength.”

**Philippians 1:6** – “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

**Matthew 6:19-21** – “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**1 Peter 5:8** – “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

**1 Peter 5:9** – “Resist him, standing firm in the faith.”

**Ephesians 6:11** – “Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

**James 4:7** – “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

**1 John 4:4** – “Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.”

**Mark 12:30-31** – “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

**Matthew 5:46** – “If you love those who love you, what reward will you get?”

**John 13:34** – “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

**1 John 1:9** – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

**Hebrews 4:16** – “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

**James 4:10** – “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

**Ephesians 4:32** – “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.”

**Matthew 5:44** – “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

**Romans 5:8** – “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

**Proverbs 3:5-6** – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.”

**James 1:5** – “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

**Psalms 5:8** – “Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies-make straight your way before me.”

**Psalms 119:105** – “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

**Hebrews 4:12** – “The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.”

**Proverbs 30:5** – “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield to those who put their trust in him.”

**Mark 13:31** – “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

**Psalms 33:4** – “The word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.”

## Appendix K

### Prop List

Glasses – “I’m Nothing” (Logan)

Book – “Weak Days” (Grace)

Pencil and Paper – “Weak Days” (Jessica)

Shoebox or pair of shoes – “I Want” (Sydney)

Jewelry – “I Want” (Jessica)

Game controller – “I Want” (Stetson)

Chair/Stool – “The Good, the bad, the tempted” (Jessica)

Clock with hands – “Wish I Hadn’t” (Tina)

Long paper list – “Forgiven, Forgotten” (Conner)

Magic 8 Ball – “What to Do” (Jenny)

Coin – “What to Do” (Jessica)

## Appendix L

### Extra Words for Soloists

#### “Humble Yourselves Before the Lord”

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and will forgive our sins.

If we confess our sins, He will make us clean.

Come to the throne of grace with confidence in your time of need.

Come to the throne of grace and find His mercy.

#### “Forgiven”

Forgiven, I have been forgiven

For all my sins, forgiven

Forgiven, I have been forgiven

Because I am forgiven, I must forgive.

The Father showed His love for us, even while we sinned.

Jesus came and died for us, to give new life in Him

Forgiven, I have been forgiven

For all my sins, forgiven

Forgiven, I have been forgiven

Because I am forgiven, I must forgive

So I must love my enemies and pray for everyone.  
Forgiving them and showing love, just as Christ has done.

Forgiven, I have been forgiven  
For all my sins, forgiven  
Forgiven, I have been forgiven  
Because I am forgiven, I must forgive  
I must forgive, I must forgive.

“Lead Me, Lord”

Lead me, Lord. Make Your way plain before me.  
Lead me, Lord. Make Your way plain before me.  
I will trust in you with all of my heart  
And lean not on my own understanding.  
Lord in every way, I will give you praise.  
You have promised me, when I ask You,  
That you will always give me Your wisdom.  
Lord, I ask you now to direct my path.



## Appendix M

## Performance Flyer

Wylie United Methodist Church  
presents

*Sticky Notes & Bible Quotes*  
A Children's Musical  
Created by Dennis & Nan Allen

Directed by Julie Brinkman

Wednesday, November 18, 2015  
6:00 PM

at

Wylie United Methodist Church  
3430 Antilley Road  
Abilene, TX 79606

Free Admission

## Appendix N

## Performance Program

Wylie United Methodist Church presents

*Sticky Notes and Bible Quotes:  
Godly Answers for Sticky Situations*

Created by: Dennis &amp; Nan Allen

Directed by: Julie Brinkman

## “The Word”

## “Children of God”

Soloists: Katherine Dalton, Sydney Katona

## “God is Near”

Soloists: Katherine Dalton, Colton McKee, Dalton McKee,  
Braxton Richardson, Sydney Katona

## “Treasures”

## “Resist Him”

## “Humble Yourselves Before the Lord”

Soloists: Jessica Hunter, Grace Warren

## “Forgiven”

Soloists: Charlee Frazier, Jessica Hunter,  
Grace Warren, Taylor Wood

## “Lead Me Lord”

Soloists: Charlee Frazier, Taylor Wood

## “The Word (Reprise)”

Sketch Actors:

Kitten Arthur  
Stetson Bighahoz  
Logan Huffington

Jessica Hunter  
Sydney Katona  
Conner Sauve

Jenny Stump  
Tina Stump  
Grace Warren

Performers:

Luke Acevedo  
Isaac Acevedo\*  
Molly Avila  
Sophie Avila  
Victoria Baker\*  
Stetson Bigham  
Katherine Dalton\*  
Aidan Edick  
Starla Francis  
Charlee Frazier\*  
Owen Gooch  
Lawren Hall\*  
Alexa Huffington

Barrett Huffington  
Creed Huffington  
Logan Huffington\*  
Jessica Hunter\*  
Sydney Katona\*  
Connor Logue  
Kaleb Logue  
Annalise Loudermilk  
Lily McClendon  
Ava McClendon  
Colton McKee\*  
Dalton McKee\*  
Aidan Moore\*  
Alex Moore\*

Max Moore\*  
Braxton Richardson\*  
Bryson Richardson\*  
Kinleigh  
Richardson\*  
Daisy Smith\*  
Jenny Stump  
Tina Stump  
Jadeyn Thornhill\*  
Emily Varela  
Grace Warren\*  
Taylor Wood\*  
Clair Yoder  
Evan Yoder\*

\*Bible Verse Reader

Adult Leaders:

Misty Bigham  
Krista Bunger  
Cindy Coston

Carlene Crim  
Megan Doe  
Joyce Geomets  
Brad Robinson

Theresa Sauve  
Arlis Wright  
Terri Wright

A “Sticky Note” from the Director:

This production began as a part of my Honor’s Thesis Project but more importantly as a way that I could give back to my Wylie United Methodist family. It has been such a joy to work with the children each week and see their excitement as they learn to hide God’s Word in their hearts. Thank you so much to Pastor Jeff Hatcher, Carlene Crim, and Theresa Sauve for their support and encouragement of this project from the beginning. Much thanks to all of the wonderful adult leaders who helped with rehearsals and behind the scenes this semester. I pray that as you watch the children sing, dance, and act, you will recognize the importance of hiding God’s Word in your heart and that you will hear a message that can help you in the “sticky situations” you may face today.